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FROM: Catherine Podeszinski, Acting Director, Scholarships, Fellowships & Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering

TO: NSERC Scholarships Liaison Officers (SLO)

C.C.: Deans of Graduate Studies

DATE: August 17, 2018

SUBJECT: **2019 NSERC Scholarships and Fellowships Competition**

This memo, along with the *Scholarships Liaison Officer Information Package – Administration of the NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships-Doctoral Program*, should be distributed to department Chairs, faculty members and staff responsible for processing NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships-doctoral (PGS D) applications.

UPDATES FROM THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS DIVISION

COLLECTION OF SELF-IDENTIFICATION DATA

Equity, diversity and inclusivity (EDI) strengthen research communities and the quality, social relevance and impact of research. Self-identification data provides information on the diversity of the population applying for and receiving agency funds. This data is important for monitoring the fairness of our programs and informing future measures to increase equity, diversity and inclusion among all those involved in the research enterprise.

Beginning in August 2018, NSERC (in coordination with SSHRC and CIHR) will be asking all applicants to self-identify with information on age, gender, Indigenous identity, disability and visible minority status. Completing the new self-identification form will be mandatory for applicants and co-applicants but for each category there is an option “I prefer not to answer.”

In order for SLO's to nominate Indigenous applicants above the quota, applicants must also provide consent within the application form. A similar consent will also be required so that NSERC may increase equity and diversity among qualified applicants by giving award priority to meritorious applicants who self-identify as Indigenous and/or as a woman if sufficient funds become available. To be considered for targeted programs, such as the NSERC and L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Supplement and the Alice Wilson Award, PDF applicants must also self-identify in the application form.

INCLUSION OF SEX, GENDER and DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS IN RESEARCH

NSERC is in the process of integrating sex, gender and diversity considerations into its evaluation criteria. Our community will be informed of changes and effective dates in advance of application deadlines. Applicants should refer to pages 5 to 7 in the [Guide for Applicants: Considering equity, diversity and inclusion](#) in your application for more information.

NEW FOR PGS D

1. First-class average in each of the last two years of completed study is no longer an eligibility criterion. Universities should continue to recommend the top-ranked applications to NSERC.
2. Joint programs with a professional degree (e.g., MD/PhD, DVM/PhD) are eligible, provided they have a significant research component.

NEW FOR PDF

3. "First" PhD has been removed from the eligibility calculation.
4. Primary caregivers are eligible to apply within 6 years of PhD completion without restriction on amount of time spent on parental leave.
5. Eligibility has been extended to 3 years for a significant interruption of career due to illness or health related family responsibilities.
6. NSERC and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) have launched the CMHC-NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship valued at \$45,000 per year for two years. For more information on the initiative visit the [CMHC Housing Research Scholarship Program](#) website.

All relevant documentation pertaining to the receipt, processing, and review of the PGS D applications has been, or will soon be, posted on the [Grants and Scholarships Administrative Portal](#) (GSAP) under **Documents common to all institutions – NSERC Scholarships**.

This includes:

1. **PGS D quota:** Indicates the application quota for your university. For most universities, the calculated quota is a function of the average number of PGS D and Canada Graduate Scholarships-Doctoral (CGS D) awarded to students applying through the university, over the past three years. Those universities who qualify for a quota of less than two (2) will receive the established minimum quota of two (2). The PGS D quotas for the 2019 competition will be posted at the end of August.
2. **Scholarships Liaison Officer Information Package – Administration of the NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships-Doctoral Program:** Summarizes the responsibilities of the SLOs in the administration and selection of the PGS D applications to forward to NSERC, as well as detailed information for the university scholarships selection committee(s).
3. **University Grading Systems Table:** Summarizes the undergraduate and graduate grading systems at the various Canadian universities. This table will be posted in early September.
4. **2019 Recommended PGS D Applicants Form:** All universities must send NSERC an unranked list of the applicants that were recommended (with Indigenous applicants identified) by email to schol-slo@nserc-crsng.gc.ca.

The following table provides a list of NSERC scholarships and fellowships programs and their respective deadline dates. All program descriptions have been updated for the upcoming competitions. For an overview of changes, consult the [Summary of Changes](#) page on the NSERC website.

Program	Deadline
Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's Program	December 1
Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships-Doctoral/NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships-Doctoral Programs	November 25
NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowships Program	October 15
Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships Program	September 19
Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships Program	October 31
Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements Program	October 10
Foreign Study Supplement in Taiwan	February
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Postdoctoral Fellowships	February 1

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact NSERC by email at schol-slo@nserc-crsng.gc.ca.

On behalf of NSERC and the Scholarships and Fellowships team, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you and your colleagues for your collaboration in promoting our programs and for your work in relation to the annual competition.